

# Grant Writing & Fund Development Training

by Sarah Warzecha



On Friday February 19th, a group of LVIers came together to acquire one of the most vital skills in non-profit work: grant writing. The workshop was led by Dorothy Miaso, who provided attendees with a detailed program, enriched by her background in grant review committees. Topics ranged from advice on the level at which to appeal for government funding and tips for sorting through online grant databases to insider information about how to sap other organizations' leftover grant money at the end of the fiscal year. Participants learned that one's pocket is only as deep as one's network is wide and that following guidelines to the letter is essential for getting a grant proposal the elusive stamp of approval. The workshop culminated in a practice grant-writing activity during which attendees tackled a fictional proposal for after-school art program funding. This exhaustive grant-writing seminar was incredibly informative and provided participants with a complete set of money-grubbing tools. For those who were unable to attend, the PowerPoint used in the presentation can be found on the LVI website under "Members Only."

The  
**READER**  
VOCAL AMERICORPS 2009-2010

## Inside this issue

**Grant Writing**

**Creating a Buzz**

**Volunteer Recruitment**

**Executive Director's Corner**

**Member Bios  
Anixter Center  
Pui Tak Center**

**Announcements**

**Upcoming Dates**

**Tutor Tip**



## Creating A Buzz & Volunteer Recruitment: A Big Success

by Allison Oliver

The long-awaited "Creating a Buzz" presentation, which took place on January 29, 2010, was a big success. The first presentation was by Dorothy Miaso, who gave a fabulous and informative statistical overview of volunteerism and the alarming trends. Some of the most interesting trends focused on the key reasons why more minorities were not volunteering in comparison to the Caucasian population. Also, it was very fascinating that colder states like Minnesota and Alaska had increasing volunteer ranking in comparison to warmer states, including Florida and Louisiana.

The other two presenters included Theo Stripling and Allison Payne, who focused more on media forms that could increase volunteerism. Theo presentation focused on using different inexpensive media forms to advertise volunteer opportunities such as press releases and PSAs (Public Service Announcement). The graphics and advertisements for Verizon's new Droid were a crowd pleaser, as they showed the importance of making an advertisement distinctive, but eye catchy.

Allison Payne's attractive presentation focused on software that could be used to make printed materials, such as flyers, newsletters and brochures, look attractive but still be cost efficient, especially for non-profits. It was really unbelievable how expensive the different software can be, even after being heavily discounted. However, she showed the audience affordable alternates, such as Microsoft Office Clip Art and Templates.



In general, the "Creating a Buzz" workshop was a successful event. Thanks again to all of the presenters: Dorothy Miaso, Theo Stripling and Allison Payne.



**O**UT REACH for  
**C**OMMUNITY  
**A**CTION in  
**L**ITERACY

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“No man’s life, liberty, or property are safe while the Legislature is in session”

A classic political phrase and a cautionary one as we head into a budget session in Illinois that is likely to be one of the rockiest in recent history. Illinois, like many states, is heavily in debt with shrinking state revenues. How the money we have will be allocated this coming fiscal year will be the source of much debate in the coming two months. Adult education and adult literacy have historically been underfunded at the state and national levels and are likely to be negatively impacted again. It is incumbent upon us, individually, and as a field, to advocate against this and seek an equitable share of public dollars for those we serve. There are several ways we can do this.

First, as an individual, I encourage you to communicate with your local legislators – Senator and State Representative – to let them know of your work and your agency’s and how you think our state revenues should be spent on behalf of adult education and the clients you serve. You can do this by letter, e-mail, phone or personal visit to their local office. Make sure they know you live in their district and that you vote. Second, there are two legislative awareness activities taking place in Springfield that I encourage you to be part of as well – Dome Day and Adult Education Awareness Day.

Dome Day, which is now in its third year, is designed to promote national and community service in Illinois. It will be held on Tuesday, April 13th and is being supported by a host of national service organizations that are being led by City Year. The day will begin with a rally at the state capitol followed by open time for you to call on and meet with your State Rep and Senator.

Adult Education Awareness Day, which is organized by the Illinois Adult and Continuing Educators Association is scheduled for Friday, April 30th. Similar to Dome Day, the Adult Education Awareness Day seeks to cast the spotlight on the adult education and literacy efforts going on in our communities, with the hope of securing greater resources for the expansion of these efforts.

Participating in one or both of these days will give you an inside look at the legislative process as it is occurring in Springfield, and will provide you with an opportunity to personally visit with your local legislators while you are there. It’s also a great time for networking with others in the adult education and community service fields.

LVI will be active participants in both of these days and we invite you to be a part as well. More information on travel and other arrangements as they become available will follow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dorothy Miaso', is written below the text.



**Robin Freed**  
**Pui Tak Center**

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but would consider the Twin Cities my hometown since I spent most of my childhood there. I moved around a lot as a kid, and it has been a continuing tradition ever since. I have lived in 6 states and 3 countries. This has shaped who I am because I now love new things. One of my favorite things to do is pack yet unpacking is something I avoid. For some, maturing means they are able to step outside of their comfort zones, whereas I have grown by staying put.

I stayed at the Pui Tak Center this year because I loved it last year and I didn't want to pick up and move as I so freely seem to do. That has been a great choice for me since I have grown in responsibility and knowledge in teaching and organizing.

When I graduated from North Park University with a B.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies I had no idea what I could possibly do. What I did know was that I wanted to work cross-culturally. I have travelled to Latin America and India and studied the Middle East extensively, but when I came across the Pui Tak Center I realized I had never worked with the Chinese culture at all. Being a new thing, it was not difficult for me to dive right in.

Working here has been so wonderful. I will miss it more than I have missed any other place because I have worked at making it my home. I have learned that I love teaching, especially in small group settings. This has led me to decide to go back to school for a masters and licensure in teaching Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. I hope to work in a middle school as an EBD teacher and coach volleyball at the same time, as I do now. The program will take place in Minnesota, where most of my family still is. It will be a sad transition, but I hope that it will be a place in which I can put down roots.



**Ashley Robinson**  
**Pui Tak Center**

I am serving at the Pui Tak Center in Chinatown. At Pui Tak, I help organize the adult and youth tutoring programs, and I also teach a pronunciation class or do one-on-one tutoring with adults. I also have a separate, non-Americorps job of teaching English Monday through Thursday at the Pui Tak Center (which I love!).

I chose LVI, because I love teaching English. Being able to help people communicate in English is very meaningful to me. I also love having the opportunity to interact with people of different cultures and being able to offer immigrants help in such a needed way.

My hometown is Maywood, IL (a western suburb) and I received my B.A. in TESOL from the Moody Bible Institute. I've only had 2 other jobs – doing catering with Berghoff, cleaning offices at my alma mater.

My hobbies include learning about different cultures, learning different languages (somehow trying to brush up on my French, as well as learning Arabic and Creole all at once is what I'm doing right now – and the occasional Mandarin phrase), hanging in book stores and libraries, and reading. My interests are seeing pretty nature things (gardens, sunsets, etc.), games (Apples to Apples is my favorite!), exploring Chicago, hanging with friends, having adventures with my boyfriend, dancing, learning how to cook/bake, eating candy, watching movies (but only if I can talk during them).

I like a lot of different books and authors. I love reading The Bible (especially Isaiah and anything written by John) and books on theology and faith (current fave is God in the Flesh by Don Everts). I enjoy books about animals like White Fang and Watership Down (those are a couple of my all-time favorites). I also enjoy fantasy. I love A Little Princess & The Secret Garden by Francis Hodges Burnett, and the Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry trilogy by Mildred Taylor. And I love manga, Fruits Basket being my favorite.

The next step for me will be continuing to work at Pui Tak Center as an ESL teacher. Eventually I'll get to grad school (probably), once I figure out what to get my master's in, and I want to spend time overseas again.



**Amy Arthur**  
**Anixter Center**

My name is Amy Arthur and I'm serving at the Anixter Center. My responsibilities there include teaching small classes, performing one-to-one tutoring, and a variety of administrative tasks. I'm originally from Mandeville, Louisiana, a suburb of New Orleans. In May 2009 I graduated with my BA in English from Sewanee: the University of the South (a tiny liberal arts college in a Tennessee town with one stoplight and definitely no Starbucks). In my past jobs I've read teenage love poems, served tea to transvestites, revised more essays on Macbeth than you can shake a stick at, taxied famous writers to and from the Nashville airport, dislodged a toddler from a chair he'd lodged himself into, and performed a karaoke version of "Thriller" for 70 high school students.

When I'm not busy rescuing toddlers I enjoy knitting, hiking (though much less now that I live in Chicago!), people watching, reading, and writing. I've been writing poetry for about as long as I can remember and was recently fortunate enough to be published for the first time in a literary magazine. One of my favorite poets is John Berryman, an American writer who was most famous in the 1950s and 60s. One of my favorite poems by Berryman ("Dream Song 14") begins, "Life, friends, is boring. We must not say so."

Even so, life has been anything but boring since September. I love my site, my clients, and my coworkers; there's definitely never a dull moment! Although I never saw myself entering the human services field, it's been an incredible learning experience, and one I know I'll always be grateful for. In terms of the future, I plan to go on to graduate school within the next year or two for an MFA in poetry. Ultimately, I would like to teach English at the university level and, of course, keep writing and publishing along with whatever I do for a living.

## Member Bios Host Site Information



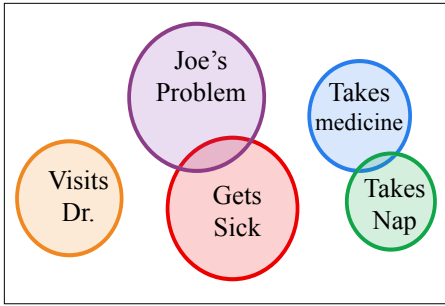
### **Anixter Center**

The mission of Anixter Center is to enhance the ability of individuals living with or at risk of disabilities to live, learn, work, and play in the community. Each year, at dozens of locations across greater Chicago, the Center provides an array of services to more than 5,000 children and adults, including education, employment, life skills, communication, recreation, health care, counseling, and support. Most of the people who receive services have a significant disability – physical, intellectual, developmental, sensory, psychiatric, and many have more than one.



### **Pui Tak Center**

Established in 1994 by the Chinese Christian Union Church to be a Christian witness to Chinese in Chicago, the Pui Tak Center serves over 2,500 individuals each year through a variety of educational, family and community services that include a computer learning center, a music program, and a pre-school through 6th grade school. The Adult ESL program offers six levels of English and citizenship preparation classes. Nearly 1,200 adults attend the classes each year.



## Tutor Tip: Circle Game

**Reason:** Many students have difficulty comprehending what they read because they have difficulty identifying key details and determining the relationships among them. This activity helps the student isolate details and establish relationships. The use of the circle format enables the student to see how details relate to one another.

**Materials:** Short story, narrative newspaper or magazine article; paper and pencil.

**Preparation:** On a blank piece of paper, draw circles of different sizes. (There is no correct pattern.) Let some of the circles overlap. Use no more than six to ten circles.

**Procedure:** Have the student read a passage, or read a passage to the student. Ask your student to name key details from the passage (e.g., characters events and places). List the student's responses on a sheet of paper. Ask the student to identify which of the key details was the most important; write that detail in the largest circle. (There are no wrong answers.) Have the student continue until all circles contain a word or until all the detail words have been used.

Tutor Tip is from page 15 of the *P.U.L.L.* (Project for Unique Learners in Literacy) book.

## New CEO at CNCS

Patrick Corvington was sworn in as the new Chief Executive Officer at the Corporation for National and Community Service on February 18, 2010. Mr. Corvington brings to the Corporation more than twenty years of leadership and expertise on key issues facing the nonprofit sector including social innovation, evaluation, and nonprofit capacity building. Most recently he served as a Senior Associate at the Annie E. Casey Foundation and prior to that served as the Director of Innovation Network, a non-profit agency whose mission is to build the evaluation capacity of the non-profit sector. He is a recognized expert in non-profit management and leadership, and we look forward to his leading our country's service efforts.

## Refugee Youth Soccer Fundraiser

Support Poclee, a Burmese refugee who works with World Relief, by joining him for a fundraiser at Small Bar (1415 W Fullerton) on March 26th at 7:00 p.m. All raffle proceeds and a percentage of purchases that night will benefit Poclee's Thai refugee soccer camps for children. Donations of soccer equipment will also be accepted at the event.



From left to right: S. Wong, Valeri Tao, Mark Tao, Bill Wong

## Congratulations !

Mark Tao and his wife, Valeri, were married on December 20, 2009. Mark was an Americorps VOCAL member at the Pui Tak Center in 2006 and 2007. Mark and Valeri are currently attending graduate school at North Park University.

## Upcoming Dates

### March 12th

3rd Quarterly Member Meeting  
*LVI Office*  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### April 17th

On the Road to Literacy Conference  
*UIC Center for Literacy*  
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

### May 11th - 17th

National AmeriCorps Week

### May 10th

Volunteer Information & Recruitment Fair  
*Thompson Center*

### May 14th

Life After AmeriCorps  
*LVI Office*  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### June 19th

Final Quarterly Member Meeting  
*LVI Office*  
9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

## Happy Birthday !

Paul Johnstone  
3/2

Theo Stripling  
3/4

Amy Arthur  
3/10

## Welcome New Members!

David Gordon  
*Indo-American Center*

Paul Johnstone  
*Corazon a Corazon*